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THE WORK OF AN INCENDIARY.

The Virginia Asphalt and Paving Company a Heavy Loser.

The Old Cannery Building, Near the Gas House, Burned to the Ground Last Night About Midnight—Machinery, Worth \$14,000 and Uninsured, Badly Damaged—The Loss on the Building Small.

The fire alarm turned in from box 24 last night was promptly responded to by the fire companies, and the ladders were soon on the scene. The fire was in the building formerly the cannery factory, near the gas works, but was recently leased by the Virginia Asphalt and Paving Company.

The fire had considerable hold when the companies reached it, and while they worked valiantly and displayed the utmost skill and expediency in bringing their hose to play on it, it was of little avail, and it was soon seen that the only thing possible to be done was to guard the flames and prevent them from spreading.

Three continuous streams of water were kept on the flames from the time the fire was reached till the building was burned to the ground. There was an immense crowd assembled, but the utmost order prevailed and no accident occurred.

The first alarm did not arouse very many, but when the call for the engine was turned in there was a wholesale rush, and the crowd probably numbered over a thousand. The building was a total loss, as was a large amount of machinery recently put in.

The building was a large frame structure, three stories high, and though a total loss, was not of great value. It was the property of the Exchange Building and Investment Company. The chief loss was the machinery of the Virginia Asphalt and Paving Company. The entire machinery on the grounds and the building was valued at \$14,000.

Two large boilers of considerable value were just outside the building and were not seriously damaged. The entire loss could not be estimated last night. There is no insurance on the machinery and the loss will fall quite heavily on the Asphalt and Paving Company.

The origin of the fire is not known, but it is thought to be the work of an incendiary, as there was no one about the building and it had not been in operation in some time.

In less than two hours from the time the fire was discovered the entire building was in ashes. The alarm was turned in about 10:45.

DR. MAYO'S LECTURE.

He Makes a Practical Talk to the School-teachers.

The lecture delivered by Rev. Dr. Mayo, of Boston, before the teachers yesterday evening in the First ward school building was practical and to the point. Dr. Mayo is a fluent talker and holds his audience by his attractive manner and deep thought. His subject was "Something the People Expect of the Teacher." He went on to show how different people regarded the teacher, and particularly the educated public.

The things that the educational public expect of a teacher are first that they should know the things they teach. Next they should know the thing itself and not the text book alone treating that subject. Another and the third important thing is to know human nature. The American people are forbearing people and do not expect too much of the young and inexperienced teacher. They do not expect any more that a teacher be perfect in his profession at first than they do that the lawyer or physician be experts in law and medicine as soon as they are graduated from the college.

The members of all the learned professions are teachers. The lawyer at the bar when he pleads to the twelve jurors is a teacher, and the lawyer that is the best teacher is the one that wins the case. Just so with the other professions. Christ when He was here was called the great teacher. But the journalist is the most constant teacher, instructing both in season and out of season.

The Americans, unlike the Europeans, give every person a chance to enter whatever profession he chooses without first having to pass an examining board of government officials. America lets down the bars to all who wish to enter, and the fittest survive. Dr. Mayo will deliver a lecture to-night at the colored Methodist Church.

The Big Boarding House.

Mr. Frank R. May, the contractor who is building the large boarding house on the Roanoke Development Company's property, is pushing this work right ahead. The frame work for the first story has been erected and the building will be ready for occupancy by the middle of March.

The Engagement Closed.

The "Little Lord Fauntleroy" Company closed a two nights' engagement at the Opera House last night. This company made a very favorable impression here, and the two little lords gained many friends by their fine acting and winsome manners.

George C. Moomaw to be Married.

Mr. George C. Moomaw, of this city, will be married on February 11 to Miss Annie Florence Crowder of Salisbury, Pa. The wedding will occur at the home of the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Moomaw will return to Roanoke the latter part of February.

In the Clutches of the Law.

S. S. Richold, of Philadelphia, a traveling salesman for the cigar firm of Myers & Co., was arrested here last night on information of a telegram sent from Pulaski charging him with obtaining money on false pretense.

THE RAILROAD MEN.

Another Interesting Day of the Conference.

The morning session of the Railroad Men's Christian Association conference met in the association rooms promptly at 9:30 o'clock. The devotional exercises were conducted by Jessie Blanton. The question of finance was then taken up and reports presented by the various committees, which showed that the financial condition was on a sound basis.

The reports showed that a considerable sum had been appropriated and applied to the organization of new societies, and for the distribution of tracts and Bibles among railroad men from Philadelphia to Bristol, and from Baltimore to Cincinnati.

The question, "What is the Most Successful Plan for Raising the Necessary Amount to Defray Current Expenses?" was discussed at length by Mr. H. O. Williams, and followed by others.

The subject as to the best method of collecting dues was very entertainingly presented by Mr. Thos. Johnson, who advanced some very original and practical views on the subject.

The question of what constitutes a well arranged and equipped building was very thoroughly discussed by Mr. Geo. K. Simple, who gave some valuable suggestions upon this important question. He advocated that the rooms be thoroughly equipped and supplied with the best journals of this day, and that every association room should have a complete library of the best and purest literature of the time.

The afternoon session was held in Greene Memorial Church, and after the usual devotional exercises the programme, which had been previously arranged, was taken up and a general discussion and presentation of views on questions pertaining to the evangelical work participated in by quite a number of the delegates.

Some very interesting experiences were related, and it was also shown that the association is doing a great work in presenting the gospel in railroad circles throughout the North and South.

INVITED TO MEXICO.

Rev. Dr. Campbell May Go on an Evangelistic Tour.

Dr. W. C. Campbell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, has received an invitation from Rev. A. T. Graybill, a Presbyterian missionary in Mexico, to accompany him and party on an evangelistic tour through the mountain section of that country.

The party will start from Linares in the State of Nuevo Leon and will be out three weeks. The route will be through Sierra Madre Mountains and among the most primitive people in the country. The journey will have to be made on horseback and muleback and will be of the wildest and most adventurous character.

Dr. Campbell is very desirous of accepting the invitation and will go if he can arrange the affairs of his church so as to permit his absence. Rev. Mr. Graybill is a Virginian and a native of Botetourt county. He is thoroughly conversant with the manners and customs of the Mexican people and speaks the language fluently, which qualifications make him a most desirable companion for such an expedition.

"Lord Fauntleroy's" Reception.

The orange tea given at the Opera House yesterday afternoon by the "Little Lord Fauntleroy" Company was a great success.

After the performance the tea was served on the stage, and the little lord had a reception. Fully two hundred ladies and children partook of the refreshments and afterward shook hands with the little actress.

Ralph Bingham.

Ralph Bingham, the wonderful boy orator, delighted a large audience at Trinity Tabernacle last night. When the audience was not still as a funeral listening intently at his dramatic recitations, they were convulsed with laughter by his humorous selections. Besides possessing remarkable power in these roles, he is also quite clever with the violin.

Testing Their Engine.

The members of the Friendship Fire Company had their engine out yesterday for the first time, and they were very much pleased with its performance. They ran a line of hose down East avenue and the way the machine threw water was a caution. The apparatus has been thoroughly cleaned and shines like a new one.

Going to Lynchburg.

Mr. Chas. Meek, who has been connected with H. Silverthorn's Roanoke house for some time, will leave to-day for Lynchburg. He will work for Mr. Silverthorn in that city, his past experience in the jewelry business making him a valuable clerk. Mr. Meek made many friends during his stay here who will deeply regret his departure.

Building Permits.

Building permits were issued yesterday by Building Inspector Clarence Coleman for the following buildings: Barner & White to erect a stable building on Third avenue s. w., between Ninth and Tenth streets; to Johnson & Thurman, a brick store on First street s. w., between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The Sons of Veterans.

There will be a meeting of the camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans Monday night at 8 o'clock, in the rooms of the Roanoke Real Estate Exchange, in the Times building. All members of the camp are requested to be present, and a cordial invitation is extended to all sons in the city not members of the camp.

MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

The Verdict in the Case of Talt Hall.

The Jury Agrees After Twelve Hours' Deliberation—The Prisoner Hoping for a New Trial and Final Acquittal. One of the Spies of the Kentucky Rescuers Arrested and Jailed—Hall to be Taken to Lynchburg for Safe Keeping.

NORTON, Jan. 30.—[Special]—The chances are that Talt Hall will not kill his twentieth man.

"Guilty of murder in the first degree" is the verdict rendered in his trial today for the murder of Policeman Hynton, of Norton.

It was 2 o'clock this afternoon when the jury filed into the courtroom, and announced that they had agreed upon a verdict. The courthouse was packed like sardines in a box, and the prisoner showed but little agitation when the clerk read the verdict. The jury was polled, and each man answered that murder in the first degree was his verdict. The jury was out twelve hours before they agreed.

Hall was interviewed after he was taken back to his cell. He was confident that he will secure a new trial and finally be acquitted.

This is the first time in the history of Wise county that such a verdict has been rendered, and there is little doubt that an early day will be fixed for Hall's execution when the sentence of the court is pronounced.

Hall will be removed to Lynchburg immediately for safe keeping. Trouble was feared to-day, but so far the Kentucky rescuers have not yet advanced beyond the jail, probably having been prevented from so doing by the prompt action of the authorities in taking every possible precaution to prevent a riot and hold the prisoner.

However, the Kentucky toughs are still in the surrounding woods, and one of their spies were arrested to-day and put in jail. A strong guard is still maintained about the jail, and it is hoped that this vigorous action will scare off the gang.

HAS KILLED NINETEEN MEN.

Hall is Said to Have Made Such an Admission—His Life.

"Do you know anything about Talt Hall, who is raising such an excitement over a year's action?" asked a Dispatch reporter of Dr. Spence, the delegate from Lee county.

"Well, I know a good deal about him," replied the doctor. "He killed a cousin of mine, Elkerton Turner. 'Talt Hall,' continued the doctor, 'was born in Floyd county, Ky., and has been in a feud all his life. He confesses to having killed nineteen men, and the gang to which he belonged have killed over a hundred. He inherited the feud.'

"His father, old Talt Hall, killed two or three men. My impression is that the feud started in 1875 at a Christmas dinner given by Jeff. Turner at his house on Beaver creek. There was a row between the Turners and the Sizemores, in which Jeff. Turner and Big Sizemore were killed and some eight or ten were wounded. Old Talt Hall espoused the cause of the Sizemores and the feud has been going on ever since. It extended over three counties in Kentucky—Letcher, Knott and Floyd. I have been in the territory frequently, but a stranger is in no danger of being injured unless he takes sides.

HOW ELKERTON TURNER WAS KILLED.

"Two of Elkerton Turner's uncles were at the row down on Beaver creek," the member of the house added, "but Elkerton was killed while acting in his capacity as an officer of the law. Talt Hall went to a neighbor's and stole a Winchester rifle and the neighbor's daughter, and was making off with both. The old man swore out a warrant and it was given to Turner to execute. While endeavoring to make the arrest, Turner was killed by Hall, but had succeeded in wounding his adversary desperately. Hall escaped, and though close search was made for him, no trace of him could be found, except in caves in the mountains, where there were evidences of his wounds having been dressed by friends. Then he was lost sight of until he turned up in Norton and killed an officer."

DOES NOT LOOK TOO DESPERADO.

"What sort of looking man is Hall?" asked the reporter.

"Although," replied the doctor, "he is one of the most desperate characters in all that section you would not think it from his appearance. I know him personally. He is rather prepossessing in appearance, and what I call a smart educated man. He is about, say, twenty-eight years old, dark complexion, has a keen black eye, and the only suggestion of unpleasantness in his face is the fact that his hair grows very low on his forehead. If, however, he gets down on you for any reason, he will kill you if he can. Such funds as the one I have spoken of are very common in that country. Another one has been going on for years just over the mountain from me. They start between two persons and extend to the whole family connection on both sides.

HIS FRIENDS INTERESTED.

"By the way," queried the doctor as the reporter was about to leave, "have you heard anything from Wise Court House to-day? I saw from your issue of this morning that a party was assembling at the 'Pound' and a fight was expected. If it comes off several of my friends will be in it."

The doctor was told that nothing had been heard up to that hour, but if news came of a lively wholesale case of phibotomy by a reasonable hour of the night a telephone message would be sent to him.

IN MEMORY OF HOUK.

Orations on the Life and Character of the Tennessean.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—[Special]—In the House to-day the charges and evidence taken by the judiciary committee of the Fifty-first Congress and the report thereon relative to Judge Boardman, of Louisiana, were reported to the judiciary committee with instructions to fully investigate and report at any time.

Mr. Reed asked unanimous consent that during the day members desirous of introducing bills might present them to the speaker, to be referred by him, as was done during the Fifty-first Congress.

Mr. Bland objected, giving as his reasons that the speaker did not regularly refer bills during the Fifty-first Congress.

Mr. Reed hoped that the gentleman did not mean to insinuate that the present speaker would follow the evil example.

Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, thereupon demanded the regular order, which was the consideration of unfinished business—the proposed code of rules.

The speaker stated that the rules had not been called up for the reason that there was a general order for 1 o'clock. But Mr. Walker still insisted and Mr. Catchings moved to postpone consideration of the rules until Monday.

On this motion Mr. Buchanan, of New Jersey, raised the point of "No quorum," but after some time consumed in taking a vote by tellers, Mr. Buchanan said that it was evident that the party which had two-thirds majority in the House could not command a quorum, he would relent, and he withdrew the point.

The motion was therefore declared carried. But then Burrows, of Michigan, came to the front with a motion to reconsider, which Mr. Springer moved to lay on the table. Again no quorum voted, and that point was raised by Mr. Burrows, who said he wished to give the Democrats an object lesson on what might be done under the proposed rules.

Mr. Springer's motion was agreed to—yeas, 182; nays, 77—and then public business having been suspended, the House proceeded to pay its tribute of respect to the memory of the late L. C. Houk, of Tennessee.

Eulogies were delivered by Messrs. Taylor, of Tennessee; Henderson, of Iowa; Hooker, of Mississippi; Henderson, of Illinois; Lanham, of Texas; O'Ferrall, of Virginia; Breckinridge, of Kentucky; Dooliver, of Iowa; Haugen, of Wisconsin; Cummings, of New York; Covert, of New York; Washington, of Tennessee; Brostius, of Pennsylvania; Townsend, of Colorado; Peel, of Arkansas; Russell, of Connecticut; Cheatham, of North Carolina, and McMillin, of Tennessee.

The House then, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, adjourned.

A FATAL TRESTLE.

An Engineer Killed and Several Trainmen and Passengers Injured.

ROBELIN, La., Jan. 30.—[Special]—The east-bound Texas and Pacific passenger train, when one and a half miles west of this place, was fatally wrecked to-day.

Engineer Minnick is under the debris, and the fireman, express and baggage men are all injured, but not dangerously.

Chief Engineer, P. A. Smith, had one leg badly crushed. Only two passengers were injured, Samuel Staggs and F. A. Saffard. The former is suffering from nervousness more than anything else. Saffard had a broken nose.

The engine, baggage, express, mail, passenger and sleeping cars were thrown from the track and all burned. The accident was caused by a burning trestle, which is supposed to have caught fire from a freight train last night.

The Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—[Special]—The weekly bank statement is as follows: Reserve, increase, \$3,018,000; loans, increase, \$6,350,100; specie, increase, \$2,790,300; legal tenders, increase, \$3,238,200; deposits, increase, \$12,041,600; circulation, decrease, \$78,400. Banks now hold \$36,020,000 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent. rule.

Danville Tobacco Sales.

DANVILLE, Va., Jan. 30.—The sales of leaf tobacco in this market for January were 3,340,121 pounds; an increase of 1,320,000 pounds over January of last year. The sales for the first four months of the new tobacco year were 11,225,191 pounds, about the same as for a like period last year.

The Kentucky Republican Convention.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 30.—The Republican State Central Committee has decided that the State convention shall meet in this city March 30.

New Rorer Mine Superintendent.

There has been a change in the superintendency of the Rorer Mines. Capt. Henry Taylor, who has held this position for some time, retired yesterday, and he will be succeeded by Thomas Fitzgerald, an old employee of the company, who has formerly been stationed at Clark's Summit.

The friends of Capt. Taylor, who were aware of the fact that he was about to retire, gave him a very pleasant party last Thursday night at the residence of W. P. Emschwiller, where he is at present living. He has not yet decided where he will locate.

Capital Stock Increased.

An adjourned meeting of the stockholders of the Roanoke Cold Storage Company was held last night and it was decided to issue \$20,000 preferred stock for the better prosecution of the business of the company.

A SALUTE NOT YET DEMANDED

Chili Receives the Assurances of the United States

That Her Reply to Our Ultimatum is Satisfactory—The Alleged Demand of a Salute to the Flag Officially Denied. Good Feeling in Valparaiso on the Receipt of the News.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—[Special]—Secretary Blaine sent a cable message to Minister Egan this morning instructing him to inform the Chilean government that the propositions for the settlement of the differences between the two governments made in response to the ultimatum of the 21st instant are gratifying to the President of the United States as indicating good prospect that the controversy can now be adjusted upon terms satisfactory to this government by the usual diplomatic methods.

The telegram make no request or suggestion of any kind whatever.

FOR A SALUTE

by Chili to the American flag. There was nothing said at yesterday's Cabinet meeting on this subject and there is no reason to believe that this government will require such salute from Chili. It is possible, however, that Chili may of her own accord perform this graceful act at the termination of diplomatic adjustment of all the difficulties which is now in progress.

OFFICIALLY DENIED.

Specific inquiries as to the truth of the published statements that this Government has taken the position that Chili must salute our flag elicit positive and authoritative denials of the most sweeping character.

No demand is made upon Chili to salute the flag, and the stories printed this morning as to the alleged proceedings in the Cabinet meeting of yesterday on the whole subject of Chilean affairs are pronounced to be absolute conjectures and inventions.

GREAT SATISFACTION IN VALPARAISO.

VALPARAISO, via Galveston, Jan. 30.—[Special]—The United States' acceptance of Chili's reply to the ultimatum has given great satisfaction here. The exchange has risen one and a half pence.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Committee to Take a Vote on the Kent Bill Thursday.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 30.—[Special]—The female lawyer Bill is made a special order in the senate for Wednesday next.

The bill providing a hustings court for Radford fixed the judge's salary from \$750 to \$1,000 per year. As the embryo city only expects to pay her judge \$150 dollars a new bill had to be rushed through to rectify the blunder. It passed both houses to-day and limits the salary to \$750.

Before the house committee on roads this morning Richard McCoy, general manager of the Carson Lime Company, at Riverton, made a strong speech against the railroad bill.

He went behind the self-laudatory reports so often reported, and showed that while it cost less than half as much to build railroads in Georgia as it does in Virginia, yet her roads charged a higher rate of freight on every class than Virginia roads. Everybody having anything to say for or against the bill is invited to appear before the committee by Thursday, on which day it is promised to take a vote on the bill.

The roads committee has reported a resolution asking our Congressmen to favor an amendment to the interstate commerce law, so that it may apply to steamboats.

ANOTHER NEW YORK CRANK.

Demands Money, Shoots His Cousin and Kills Himself.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—[